

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

October 30, 2019

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

We are writing to share our concerns regarding the effect on the State of Maine of the current trade disputes between the United States and the European Union.

Maine and the E.U. enjoy a strong trade relationship. According to the Maine International Trade Center, in 2018, Maine imported \$769 million from the E.U. and exported nearly \$370 million in goods and services, making the bloc our second largest export market. Tariffs imposed by both the U.S. and the E.U. are hurting businesses and consumers in our state. As negotiations continue, we encourage you to avoid subjecting Maine to economic harm.

In October 2019, the U.S. imposed tariffs on \$7.5 billion worth of European products. There has been an immediate strain on companies in the specialty foods and hospitality industries, many of which are small, locally owned businesses. While we oppose the E.U. efforts to subsidize Airbus, we also recognize that tariffs can cause harm to American jobs and increase the price of goods for American consumers. Additionally, the 25 percent retaliatory tariffs that the E.U. imposed in June 2018 on U.S. goods in response to Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs have been detrimental to other industries in the state, including marine and manufacturing businesses. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a total of \$2.3 million worth of Maine exports have been targeted by the E.U.

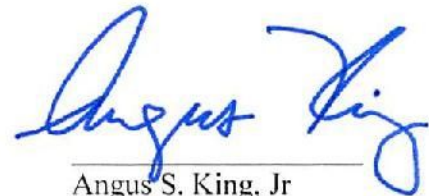
Addressing unfair trade practices requires a careful approach, and we believe that dialogue is a critical part of the process. Thank you for continuing negotiations with your counterparts in Europe. We encourage the Administration to strive quickly for a solution that protects U.S. industry and jobs and promotes economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should there be any questions, please have your staff contact [REDACTED] (Collins) at [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (King) at [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (Pingree) at [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] (Golden) at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



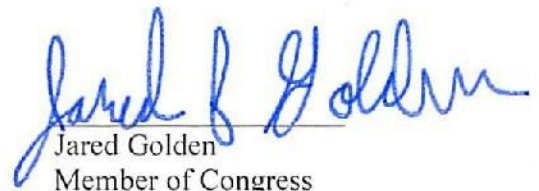
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Jared Golden  
Member of Congress